

line 19, delete "a" (first occurrence);  
line 20, after "on" insert --a--; and  
line 22, delete "a".

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-10 as follows:

a 1 sub cy 1. (Amended) In a pneumatic radial tire for all-season passenger car comprising: a tread with a tread pattern defined by dividing the tread into many blocks through a plurality of slant grooves arranged at given intervals in a circumferential direction of the tire and at least one circumferential center groove extending in the circumferential direction of the tire at a center portion of the pattern, and consisting of a central zone having a width corresponding to 30-60% of a tread width and a pair of side zones located on both sides of the central zone; [ the improvement wherein]

(1) the slant grooves comprise steeply slant grooves extending at a relatively small inclination angle with respect to the circumferential direction and gently slant grooves extending at a relatively large inclination angle with respect to the circumferential direction;

(2) the steeply slant [groove is] grooves are opened to the circumferential center groove in the central zone of the tread, while the gently slant [groove is] grooves are opened to a tread end in each of [both] said side zones of the tread to form blocks in said side zones;

(3) the number of the gently slant grooves is made two [times] or more times than the number of the steeply slant grooves so that an interval between the gently slant grooves in the circumferential direction is made  $\frac{1}{2}$  or less than an interval between the steeply slant grooves in the circumferential direction;

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Appl. No. 08/997,368

- a1 <sup>sub 1</sup>
- (4) each of the blocks is provided with at least one sipe; and
- (5) [each of the] blocks formed in the central zone are defined by the circumferential center groove and the steeply slant grooves [is] and are chamfered from a tapered top end over a range of 10-30 mm [toward] in a longitudinal direction of the block so as to gradually shallow a depth of a surface of the block from the tapered top end [toward] a longitudinal direction of the block so as to gradually shallow a depth of a surface of the block from the tapered top end [toward] in the longitudinal direction.
- 

Claim 2, line 2, change "~~the~~" to --each--.

Claim 3, line 2, change "~~the~~" to --each--.

Claim 4, line 2, change "~~the~~" to --each-- (second occurrence).

---

a2

5. (Amended) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, wherein the steeply slant groove [is communicated] communicates with [the] a gently slant groove that opens to a tread end.

---

Claim 6, line 4, change "~~the~~" to --a--.

Claim 7, line 2, change "~~the~~" to --each-- (first occurrence).

---

a3 <sup>sub 2</sup>

8. (Amended) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, wherein an [extending] inclination direction of the side [formed in the] of a block [differs between] the central zone

sub  
copy  
13  
[and] is different than an inclination direction of a side of a block formed in the side zone of the  
tread.

Claim 9, line 2, change "~~both~~" to ~~--said--~~;  
line 3, delete both occurrences of "~~in~~"; and  
line 4, change "~~to be opened~~" to ~~--opening--~~.

Claim 10, line 2, change "~~at~~" to ~~--formed in--~~;  
line 3, change "~~the~~" to ~~--a--~~ (second occurrence).

#### REMARKS

This response follows an Office Action of January 27, 1999. The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's holding concerning the allowability of claim 10. However, upon a careful review of the prior art, it is believed that further areas of patentable subject matter exist in the claims as amended. Thus, based on the amendments contained herein and the remarks that follows, reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The specification has been reviewed and revised and grammatical changes as required have been made. Included in those changes are those to the specification to tailor the description of the preferred embodiments of this invention to the amended claims.

The Examiner's rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph in paragraph 2, has been carefully studied and considered. Appropriate amendments have been made to the claims to address and rectify each of those rejections.

The Examiner should note in particular the changes to claim 1. In addition to the changes which the Examiner has required to denote the proper basis for grooves in a plural context, the